

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheets of drawings includes changes to Figs. 2 and 3.

These sheets, which include Figs. 2 and 3, replace the original sheets.

Attachment: Two Replacement Sheets
 Two Annotated Sheets Showing Changes

REMARKS

This responds to the Office Action mailed on September 14, 2005. Claims 1-12 are currently pending. Applicants appreciate the indication that claims 7-10 contain allowable subject matter if rewritten in independent form. Claims 1-6 and 11-12 have been rejected.

A. Drawing Objections

The drawings were objected to as failing to comply with 37 C.F.R. § 1.84(p)(5) because they do not include the numeral 52 discussed in paragraph 15, line 8, of the application. Applicants have provided corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(d) including the numeral 52. Applicants respectfully submit that the drawings are now in compliance with the applicable rules.

B. Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

The Examiner rejected claims 1-6, 11 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,066,874 to Becker (hereinafter the "Becker reference").

Claim 1 includes the features of "said rotatable stroke control stop member may be rotated relative to said reference ring to set the desired stroke length between zero and the maximum stroke length." The Becker reference fails to teach at least these features of the claim. The device of the present application is concerned with setting the stroke length of a liquid dispensing valve. The rotation of the rotatable stroke control stop member changes the stroke length of the liquid dispensing valve. The rotatable reference ring has indicia for indicating incremental lengths in stroke length. The combination of these two elements calibrates the liquid dispensing valve.

Calibration of the device occurs by first rotating the rotatable stroke control stop member until the stroke length is zero. Then the rotatable reference ring has a first zero reference indicator that is then aligned with a second zero reference indicator on the rotatable stroke control stop member. Then the user can rotate the rotatable stroke control stop member to set the desired stroke length by matching the second zero reference indicator with the indicia on the rotatable reference ring corresponding to incremental increase in the stroke length.

The device disclosed in the Becker reference operates completely differently than the liquid dispensing valve defined in claim 1. The Becker reference fails to teach or suggest that a "rotatable stroke control stop member may be rotated relative to said reference ring to set the desired stroke length." The device disclosed in the Becker reference is a spray gun that combines a resin and a catalyst. A hollow needle 28 extends and retracts for controlling the flow rate of resin. Inside the hollow needle 28 is a needle valve 33 that controls the flow rate of the catalyst. The indicator dial 42 provides a reference point for the rotation of knob 38a that controls the distance that the hollow needle 28 retracts or extends. The indicator dial 46 provides a reference point for the rotation of knob 35 that controls the distance that needle valve 33 retracts or extends. The needle valve 33 is completely enclosed inside of the hollow needle 28 and moves independently of the position of the hollow needle 28.

The indicator dials 42, 46 are not rotated relative to each other to determine stroke length. In fact, even knobs 35 and 38a are not rotated relative to each other to determine stroke length. Stroke length of the needle valve 33 is controlled solely by the rotation of knob 35 and indicator dial 46 is not rotated relative to any

component to determine stroke length. The indicator dials 42, 46 are stationary during normal operation of the spray gun.

The Manual of Patent Examining Procedures (MPEP) § 2131 clearly states “[t]he elements must be arranged as required by the claim, but this is not an *ipsissimis verbis* test, i.e., identity of terminology is not required. *In re Bond*, 910 F.2d 831, 15 USPQ2d 1566 (Fed. Cir. 1990). As the MPEP clearly indicates, it is not enough simply to find a reference that teaches one dial or two dials. It must teach that these elements are arranged and operate together in the claimed manner. It is clear that the Becker reference does not disclose dials arranged in the same manner as set forth in claim 1 nor does it operate in the same manner at all. Therefore, claim 1 is clearly allowable over this reference for at least these reasons.

Moreover, modification of the device disclosed in the Becker reference to arrive at this claimed language is not suggested. If the indicator dials 42 and 46 were designed to rotate relative to one another to provide information about the stroke length of the needle valve 33, the device disclosed in the Becker reference would be rendered inoperable. As already discussed, the device disclosed in the Becker reference operates to combine a resin and a catalyst, but to keep them separate until they reach the spray end of the gun. If the resin and catalyst are not kept separate, they could react quickly causing a problem in gun function (see column 1, lines 25-36). The two knobs 35 and 38a facilitate this purpose. The knob 38a is rotated to control the amount of resin that can flow out from the sprayer. The knob 35 controls the needle valve 33 to determine the catalyst flow rate. The proper proportion of ingredients of the mix ensures that the mix sets correctly. In addition, having the indicator dials 42, 46 to

determine how much fluid is flowing through one passageway versus the other ensures a proper setting of the mixture. If the Becker reference were modified to allow the indicator dials 42 or 46 to rotate to determine a desired stroke length, the reference would be inoperable because the amount of rotation of the knobs 35, 38a and, therefore, the amount of fluid that flows through the two different passageways would be unknown. This is contrary to the entire purpose of the Becker reference. Therefore, the Becker reference teaches away from the language of claim 1. Accordingly, claim 1 is allowable over all the references of record for at least these reasons.

Along these same lines, claim 11 recites "rotating the reference ring to align its zero stroke length reference indicator with the zero stroke length reference indicator on the stroke control stop member." As already discussed, the device in the Becker reference has indicator dials 42, 46 that are not rotated in the claimed manner or for the claimed purpose. Therefore, the Becker reference fails to teach or suggest claim 11. Therefore, claim 11 is allowable over the references of record.

Claims 2-6 and 12 all depend from independent claims 1 and 11 and therefore include all the features of independent claims 1 and 11. It is therefore respectfully submitted that claims 2-6 and 12 are allowable over the references of record for at least the same reasons as provided with respect to independent claims 1 and 11.

C. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants have rewritten claim 7 as an independent claim including all the features of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 8-10 depend from this allowable claim and therefore are also allowable. Thus, the Applicants respectfully

submit that claims 7-10 are now in condition for allowance and respectfully request that they pass to issue.

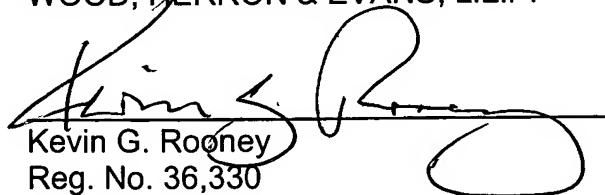
D. Conclusion

Applicants have made a bona fide effort to respond to each and every requirement set forth in the Examiner. In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application is submitted to be in complete condition for allowance and, accordingly, a timely notice of allowance to this effect is earnestly solicited. In the event that any issues remain outstanding, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned to expedite issuance of this application.

Applicants do not believe fees are dues in connection with filing this communication. If, however, any fees are necessary as a result of this communication, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any under-payment or fees associated with this communication or credit any over-payment to Deposit Account No. 23-3000.

Respectfully submitted,

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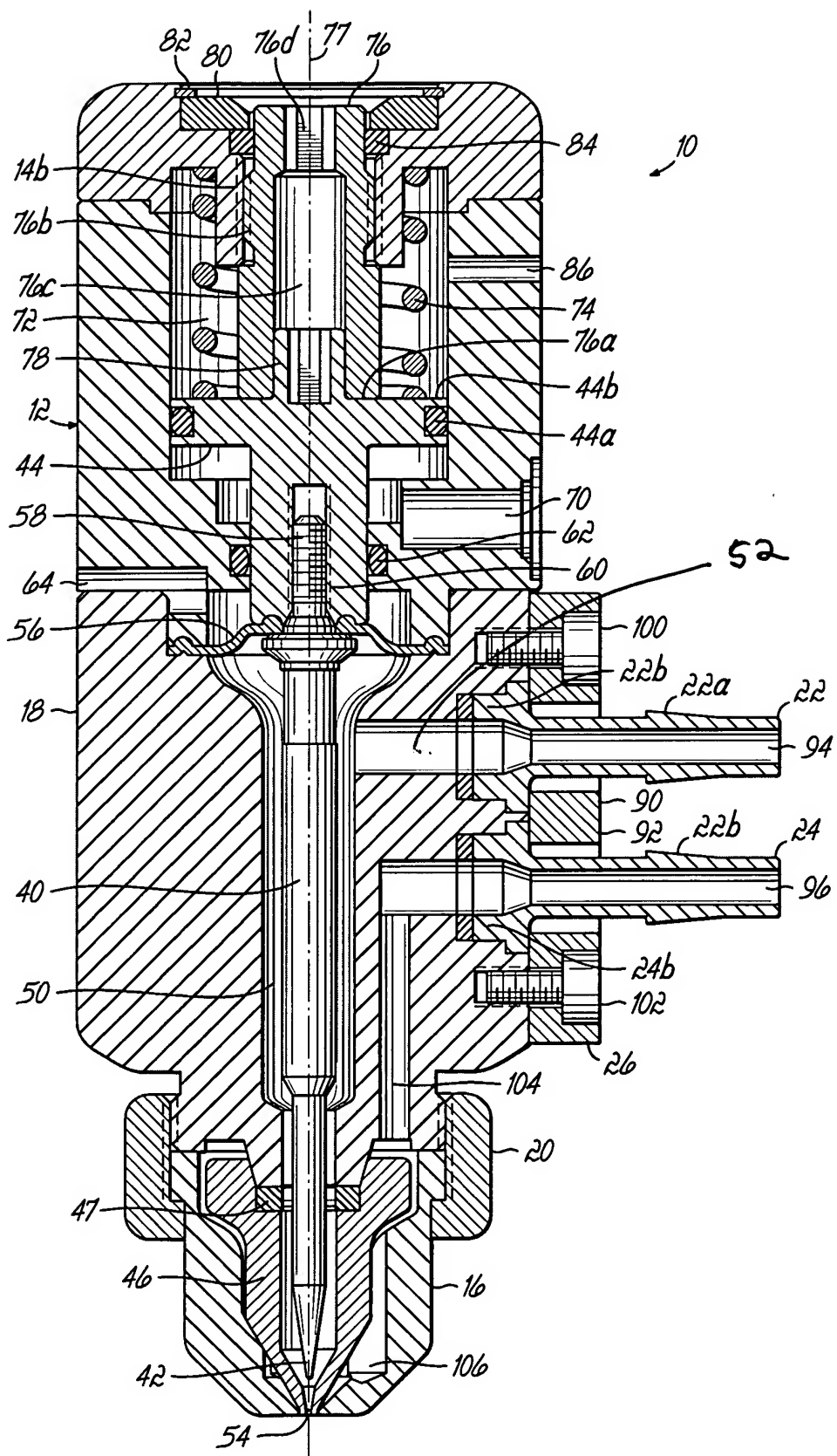


FIG. 2

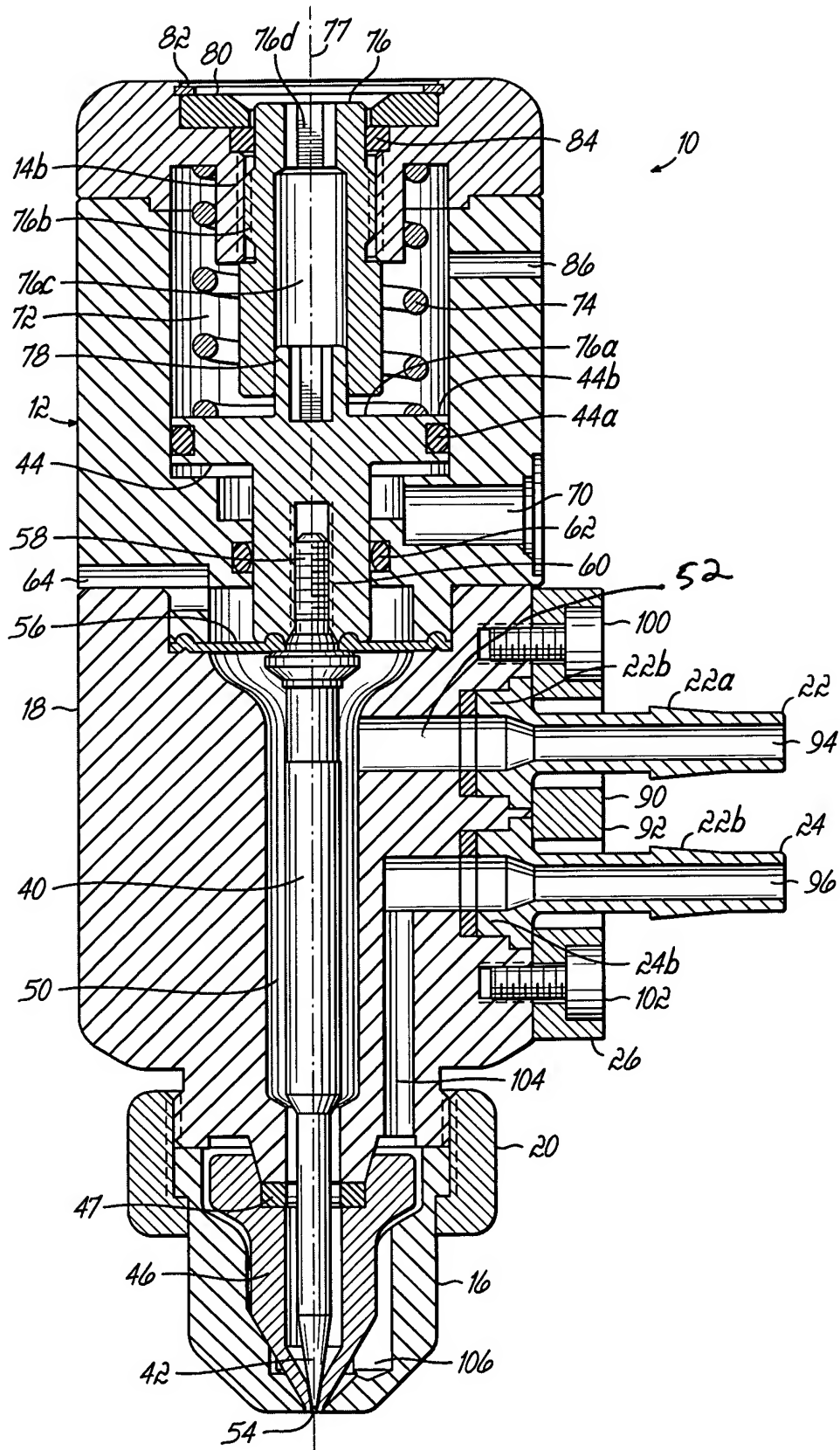


FIG. 3